

CVPIDS MESSENGER,

DELIVERING SVNDRY
excellent Letters.

A letter inviting his friend to write to him.



Though the want of your sweet society (my
sweet friend) doe occasion in me all griefe,
yet it lyes in you even by the often mission
of your desired Letters, to mitigate that
sorrow: And since the distance of place both
hinders our accustomed conference & all communicati-
on, let the passage and entertainment of our Letters supply
that defect: For as our tongues cannot bee heard, let us be
frequent in our writing, and let not the change of places
alter our minds. Wherefore that you might not judge me
neglectfull of our soe passed amity, or oblitious of our old
friendship, I have to be boldness to visit you with this
Letter, and desire you to be so niggard in this kinde of
friendly remembrance, I wish to you all prosperous for-
tunes as to my selfe, and continue my love to you with all
sincerity. But lest the prolixity of my Letter grow to the
length of an Oracion, I set bounds to my writing, and
remaine

London

May the 10. 1635.

Yours in boundlesse affection

G.D.

The

Cupids Messenger.

The answer.

A letter exculatory for not writing.

I Am afraid (judicious and kinde sir) that it is with me
as it is with that unfortunate Wylot who falls into the
Gulfe of Scylla, while he endeavours to avoid the danger of
Charibdis.

Incidit in Scyllam cupiens vitare Charybdim.

I confesse I have received Letters from you, and seek-
ing by not answering all this while to conceal the rude-
nesse of my unpublish'd pen from the keepe discerning eye
of your judgment, I doubt whether I have not made ship-
wreck of your good opinion, who haply imputes my silence
unto my neglect of your love, or to my oblivion of your
past kindnesses: But I beseech you (kindest sir) to have
thus much confidence in my disposition, that no confused
chaos of cogitations, no fumes of employment, shall banish
your remembrance out of my thoughts: though I bee ne-
ver so busie I make answer to those I little regard, I dare
scarcely write to you (I am possessed with such a true reue-
rence of your worthinesse) when I am most at leisure.
Yet finding in my selfe how farre greater a crime it is to
neglect dutie, then to lay open my imperfection to a well
wishing friend, I have chosen the latter to make tender of
the former: wishing that as you equalize graue Nestor in
wisdome, so you might parallel him in the longeuity of
a happy life, I humbly surcease.

At your command,

New castle,
Iune 2. 1635.

E.K.



Cupids Messenger.

3

A Letter to a friend vpon the death of his wife.

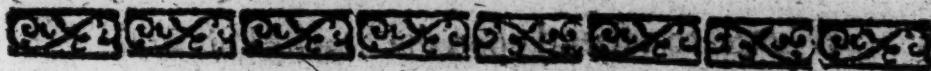
The acquaintance I had with your vertuous wife (honest friend) makes me feeble the sense of her losse, for he that can be insensible of the losse of a good woman, is an alien to nature, and a rebell to all mortall vertue. I may truly say shee was praise-worthy for her many good parts, but they were but good provisions for the world to come.

Give me leave to aske you why you mourne, I meane not why you mourne outwardly, which is an old custome and a matter of formality, but why you doe mourne inwardly, which is true sorrow: you will say (I say) for the losse of a companion. Indeed you doe well, for as a man was solitary before God gave him one, so should he be after God takes her away: but there is a mean in all things. To be hard hearted is beast like, to bee tender is effeminate, to bee sensible is manly. As for you, you cannot offer a more acceptable sacrifice to the dead, then by turning the love you bare her, into care of her children, to which I know you by nature so well inclined, that I neede not to instruct, but onely remember you: but since wise men in sudden accidents and in cases concerning themselves are sometimes to like, I am bold to advise you now, though henceforth I would be glad to be advised by you: resting,

Your servant,

Arthingworth,
Iuly 7. 1635.

I.M.



A comfortable letter vpon the losse of a
Husband.

Madam.

Though none knowes the balne of your losse, nor feels
the want so deeply as your selfe, yet I may take vpon
mee more feeling then another man, being for the loue I
beare you more sensible of your misfortune and affliction: I
my selfe haue contributed many teares, and I confesse
there is great allowance of griefe for good wiues for the
fatall departure of worthy husbands, but you were better
forget the dead then the liuing, (your daughters I meane)
to whom (I am opinionated) you would not wish so sad an
increase as your death would bring them, which, by this
your course of macerating sorrow is too much hastened: let
not your vertue of patience dye before you, but so mag-
nanimously behaue your selfe in your troubles, that your
acquaintance may finde more cause to commend you, then
to aduise you, Madam I beseech you hold me to be

Your Honours friend.

Arthingworth.
Iuly 29. 1635.

W.M.

Cupids Messenger.

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A Letter of griefe for his friends absence.

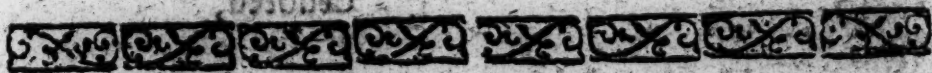
Of such comfortable use is the familiarity of a sweet companion, that those houres of our life seeme most happie which are passed away in the society of a friend: If we take a iourney, his company is instead of Coach, theres not a thought, nor a word, of the tediousnesse of the way: If we abide at home, we imagine that the steele of Time too speedily sweeps away the houres. But on the contrary, needs must his life be melancholike, that hath no friend to sweeten the slow transcurtion of Time. I wish my owne experience were not too true p^{ro}ofe hereof, for since your absence, sweetest friend, melancholy hath bene my concomitant, and your remembrance my greatest comfort. And as the turtle pines away after the losse of his mate, so since your departure my bosome hath admitted no consolation. I request you by that interest which I have in your love, since in person I cannot: that I may see you in a letter. Silence betwixne absent friends incurreth the censure of an inofficious and incivill disposition. But I know you will vindicate your selfe from a staine of so abhorrent a nature. I rest,

Farndon.

Aug. 1635.

Yours unremovably,

I. C.



A letter for the entreaty of goodwill, To a
young Gentlewoman.

The long and considerate regard by which in deepe contemplation I have eyed your most rare and singular vertues, ioynd with so admirable beauty, and much pleasing

Cupids Messenger.

ling condition, grafted in your person, hath moued me, good
 mistress E.B. among a number whom I know, entirely to
 fauour you, earnestly to loue you, and therewith to offer
 my selfe vnto you. Now howbeit I may happily seeme in
 some eyes, the least in worthinesse of a number that dayly
 frequent you, yet may you bouchsafe in your owne private
 to reckon me with the greatest in willingness. Wherein,
 if a settled and immoueable affection towards you, if ser-
 uent and assured loue, grounded vpon the vnderstable stay
 and prop of your vertues, if continuall, nay rather inexter-
 minable bowes, in all perpetuitie addiued vnto your ser-
 vice, if neuer ceasing and tormenting griefe vncertainely
 eared by a hazardous expectatiō, closed in the circle of your
 gracious conceit, whether to bring vnto the eares of my
 soule a sweet murmur of life, or severe sentence of a present
 death, may ought at all preuaile, either to moue, entreate,
 sue, sollicite, or perswade you, I then am the man, who
 thynning in my inward thoughts the dignities of so worthy
 a creature, and prising in deapest waight (though not to the
 vttermost value) the estimate of so incomparable a beauty,
 haue resolved liuing to honoꝝ you, and dying neuer to serue
 other but you, from whose delicate looks expecting no worse
 acceptance, then may seeme answerable to so diuine an ex-
 cellencie: I remaine,

January 20.
 1635.

Your most passionate, loyall,
 and perpetually
 deuoted,

F. R.

Her

Cupids Messenger.

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Her answer.

That men haue skill, and are by sundry commendable parts enabled to set forth their meanings, there needeth no other testimony then your present writing, your eloquence is farre beyond the reach of my poore wit, and the multiplicitie of your praises fitter for a poeticall goddess, then to the creation of any such deesse. For my part I shall hold them as the fancies & toys of men, issuing from the weakest of their humors, and how far my selfe can deserue, none better then my selfe can conceiue. Being one of so good sort, as you are, I could doe no lesse then write againe vnto you, the rather to satisfie the importunitie of your messenger, wishing such a one to your lot, as might paragonize those excellencies you write of, and answer ebery way to the substance of all those inestimable praises, So hoping your loue and your writing, (as I take it) bee best inted together.

Yours as farre as modesty
will, to answer your
courtesies

January 24. 1635.

E.B.

B:

Another

Cupids Messenger.

Another letter to his Mistrisse,
desiring her love.

Good mistress I. P. I am bold, though a stranger, to make these lines messengers at this present of my good meaning towards you; wherein I goe not about by pretence of a most entire and hearty good wil, which I profess to beare you, to make present surmise thereupon that on so bare an assertion you should immediately credit me, I prize your wozhines at a farre greater value, and weigh your good allowance so much, as I onely desire by your favourable liking I may intreat to haue access unto you, not doubting but by being in your presence, I shall so sufficiently by apparent pzoofe maintaine the efficacy of that I now protest, and giue you so good occasion to deeme well of me, as you shall haue no reason to repent you, that upon so honest and louing a request you haue condescended to my entreaty: whose health and prosperitie tending as mine owne, I send you with my Letter a token of that great affection I beare you, which I pray you most heartily to accept of, and weare for me. And euer so do continue,

Yours, if you please to
accept of me.

R. M.

Her answer

Sir, your message is to me as strange as your self, who are unto me a stranger, and what your good meaning unto me is, I know not; for giuing of credit unto your assertion, as you seeme not to challenge it, so was I neuer hitherto of my selfe so hasty to doe it, hauing oftentimes bene taught, that of fairest speeches ensue the foulest actions:

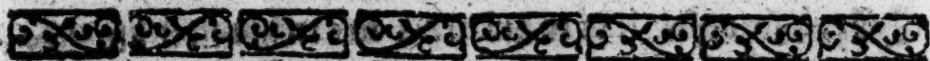
Cupids Messenger.

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tions: I cannot condemne your purpose, because I intend the best of your dealings, and howbeit I am in no pointe so restrained, but that in all reasonable sort that may be, any accesse may be granted, so when you shall by farther notice sufficiently make apparant that with modesty I may do it. I shall be willing so far forth as my yeares and present being may minister occasion, in any thankfull requitall that may be, to yeld my selfe unto you. Till which time I return your token againe, and my hearty thanks unto you by this bearer.

Your friend as one unacquainted
hitherto may be.

I.P.



To a beautilous Lady upon a
long affection.

Fairest of Ladies.

How impossible it is to keepe heat from fire, being the very nature of the element, I referre to your best iudgement, and how neare a spirit of that nature, is the loue of the heart kindled by the eye of beauty, I leane to your kindnesse to consider: since then such is the force of true loue, as cannot be so smothered by in silence, but that it must burst out into wordes and actions, either to gaine comfort, or to suffer death, pardon (fairest of beauties) that Patient that in anguish seeks ease, & denie not your helpe in the excellency of the cure: your beauty both wounded me, your excellent feature, your comely gesture, your sweet behaviour, haue all concurred to make me unhappy, vlesse your hand helpe me, and though the hurt be moze felt then seene, yet is it not deadly, if you be kind: loath I am to be a begger without desert, and yet loue will steepe a high spirit,

Cupids Messenger.

rit, which, by the bond of due honour hath sworne mee your true-feruant : in which Title, vnder heauen, shall bee my hearts greatest honoz : and in the honoz of whose fauour, shall be the height of my worlds happinesse: in hope whereof, praying to the highest Power in the heauens to blesse you with all felicity on earth, I rest:

Yours denoted, and not
to be remoued.

P. E.

Her answer.

Sir, how easie it is to quench a fire in his first kindling, Serperience can deliuer : in the diuerfitle of heats loue being not the least that is like to doe much hurt, I wish you to take order with your wits, lest it bzing your bzaine to an ill temper : kindnesse without care may bzee care without comfort. And therefore in placing of affection, bee not too far from discretion, lest the perswasion of selfe-will bee an abuse of a better sense. If I had skill in Physicks, I would prescribe you helpe for your disease, but being a simple woman, you must haue patience with my plainnesse, who not knowing how to doe you good, and unwilling to wish you hurt, leaving you to a better Paradise then in the torment of an idle passion, I rest in what I may.

Yours as kindly as
I find cause.

A. N.

To

Cupids Messenger.

11

To a iudicious Gentlewoman.

Deare friend.

The forcible effect and conquest which your beantie hath wrought in my heart, constrained me in your kindness to place the hope of my fortune: beseeching you so to equall your outward excellencie with an inward perfection, that faith may not haue feare of fauour, where humilitie shall guide the course of affection. I should esteeme of my selfe the most vnhappie, if I should giue your eares any distast by my suit, but if it light within the line of your liking, it shall begin the garden of my paradise: so vnder heauen seeking no other star, then the guide of your grace to lead my heart to the toy of my life: I rest, neuer to rest till I rest,

From Madrid.

Yours all, or mine owne
nothing at all.

E. C.

Her answer

I Am soze to thinke that a shadow of dust should haue that force (in conceit) to rob reason of his contents: for beauty is but a shadow, which if your eye hath found in my face let it goe no further, lest it doe wrong to my will in hurting your heart: my inside I hope is farre from disgracing any good in my outside, and both altogether vnhappie, if they haue bene any occasion of euill: but lest I may seeme discontent either at the matter or manner of your writing, I discharge you of the burthen of that feare, by the kinde acceptation of your affection, which though I cannot answer as I would, yet, as in good reason I may, I will thinke and consider of, which if it fall out to your liking, bee not vnfaithfull in your loue, in hope whereof I rest,

Yours wholly, if at all. A. B.

To

Cupids Messenger.

To a Lady, with whom he fell in loue, seeing her
at a solemne Triumph.

VVhen I saw you (excellent Lady) viewing the
Triumph, looking upon your eyes, we thought
Heaven opened to discover a greater glory, and Angels
telling there took from my judgement all things else
done out of that blessed compasse, but mine amazement
became my death, and my death must be your Triumph,
for how ever the conflict appeared, your glances which
were the wounding weapons, stricke through my weake
sight, and slew my heart, though armed in the strongest
fort of my bosome: I am not so happy as to be a prisoner
(for there were hope) but so unfortunate to die in despaire,
that to have the monument of my remembrance erected in
the Temple of your pittie, is the utmost ayne my blisse
looks to: the cruelty of faire ones hath pronounced my judg-
ment, and saith, it is impossible to affect where they have
not scene: Oh see mee in this sorrowfull paper, (you fairest
of adored beauties) and let that sight move affection, affec-
tion knowledge, knowledge pittie, and pittie that worke of
the highest, which is onely to doe miracles, so shall cruelty
give himselfe the lie, prove you a goddess, and make mee
(the happiest of men) a trumpet of your renowne and glory,
My loue is like your goodnesse without parallel, My faith
shall go beyond that loue, and my service crowne both with
an infinite merit. This is my sacrifice, which if you accept,
(excellentest of faire beauties, and innobled with all rich per-
fections) I live, if otherwise, my toy is, I perish by so excel-
lent a creature,

From Dover

June 9. 1635.

Prepared to suffer.

Her

Cupids Messenger.

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To the Honorable Her Answer. *in M. 107*
against M. 111

Sir, he that of a light blow with the eye, makes a deadly wound of his heart, is either too unthoughtfully faint, or much too superstitious in the signes and planets: for mine own part, my knowledge assures me I am free from any such malignant influence: I confesse a weake appetite guarded with Iudgement may oft stumble and receive knockes, may sometimes fall to bitter ruine, and to giue to that weaknesse the government of my fortune, were to rob me selfe of all good meynes pittes. In my worst mischances, the ill I cause not, reason cannot blame mee, if I cure not, since what is without mee nothing appertaines unto mee: but you will make my beauty guilty: poore nothing, hold pittifully art thou slandered: which being a mere Chymera of imagination, hath not any thing in thee, but the strength of folly, and mans fancy, it is not a substance, for then it might be felt, let loose or restrained, it hath no certaine shape, for then all men would like one figure, nor hath it any abiding, for then it would euer be found in its owne mansion: it is not compounded of perfit colours, for then no man would doubt of mixt defects, nor doth it subsist of reall vertues, for then no man would beed with the vicious: to conclude, it is nothing hath hurt you, and that nothing I send to cure your rashnesse, shall not breed my repentance: your love is too infinite, your faith too worthy, and your service too rich: a meaner proportion will guard safest a meane fortune, and so wishing your great sacrifice to a greater blessing, I rest,

Your best Counceller

Canterbury.

A.N.

busin beneing mox

3.A

C

To

To his Mistris that was of wanton and of
light cariage.

BEcause my bow of lone (my sometimes dearly beloved
mistris) hath made me your friend, therefore the care
of your honour shall make me your counsellor: whether it
come seasonable or no, examine your heart, that it comes
freely and with a wholesome intent, tryth bee my witness.
It is told mee (mistris) that your actions are publickly no-
ted for their contumelious lenity, and your wanton light-
nesse is so marked by your beholders, that contempt is be-
come your onely companion: your apparell is like your
minde, vnconstant and vncomely, and draws rather ad-
miracion then reuerence: toys are your studies, and hant-
ties your practise, so that making your selfe a slave to plea-
sure, you haue forgotten the violence of misfortune. If this
bee true (my dearly beloved mistris) then in this I must
perish, since living in you your least fall wounds both mee
and mine honour: I know you are faire and young, but if
you cloath them here with vices, what will you weare in
the grane but infamie: life runnes without feet, misfortune
strikes without an alarme, and the glory of vanity breakes
like a bubble, and leaues nothing behind but the print of
disgraces: it is too much to bee euill once, for the euill is ne-
uer forgotten, and it is too little not to bee ever good, since
the smallest blot dashes all out of remembrance. Would I
could as easily excuse you, as fame is apt to accuse you: par-
don mee if I bee too bold in writing, it is urged by a too much
boldnesse in action, the one made good, the other shall bee
gracious beyond expression: till then giue my pen leaue to
keepe my heart from breaking.

Farndon.
Apr. 1635.

Your griued friend,

A.Z.

Her

Her Answer.

A Zeale that is kindled (my best seruant) with the false fire of mens reports is rather held a superstition then an honest deuotion: for it both wrongs truth, and wounds an innocent reputation: and those light belouers, which build faith on such weake grounds, deserue nothing but ignominie and contempt: if now you accuse my life in your absence, where was your iudgement when I walkt in your presence: O hee not so false to the worth of your owne truth to say you could not see that which all the world hath discovered, or if you did, to bee so blinde to affect a thing vnworthy: but it may be, absence hath begotten new thoughts, those thoughts new affection, and that affection must needs finde a new quarrell with old friendship: if it bee so, your owne course lead you, I freely confesse I am not such a begger that can weare raggs, such a miser that can eat roots, nor so subtil to speake like a Iugler, with a rade in my mouth, Truth I serue, freedom I loue, and plainnesse is my condition. If these haue taste you cannot relish, you must in some other soyle seeke new comforts, for mine owne part I will bee no bondslane to opinion, till I know it constant, nor no seruant of the time, till it bee vnco rupt, and more honest. As for my life had it for every feather a wing, and my fortune double so many hazards, yet will I bring the one to my grave with honour, and make the other ashamed with my sufferance, I rest,

Maidston: Your iniuried mistris.
May. 7.

D.P.

63

A

Cupids Messenger.

A desperate Lover to his quondam Mistress.

I shall be vertue in you (fairest) to receive my despaires
 though you returne no comforts, and if in the reading
 you vouchsafe a sigh to my remembrance, it is a dirge that
 shall make mee for ever sleepe in quiet, despair long since
 gaue mee iudgement, and obedience onely shall make my
 death patient: It is necessary I die for you since fate de-
 ntes mee to live with you, for my selfe is such an interposi-
 tion betwixt you and your glory, that my grates would
 keepe much of your Sunne eclipsed: I know my wants,
 and that there is nothing either in my life or fortune to be-
 serue you, onely an infinite desire, which but by death can
 neuer bee lessened, then since all things suit with my de-
 spaires, bee all delays (with your leave) ever far from mee
 and let the world onely remember this in my Epitaph,
 that it was not my folly, but your will, not my despair
 but truth in obedience: But O this is that I should doe,
 not speake: and the musicke is more sweet for your eare,
 then your love for my heart: pardon my tell tale cozzen,
 it rather speaks things fit to be done, then done, and will
 sooner crave the glasse in which then it action, and yet the poi-
 son of disdaine is so violent: I know well I waste time, and
 waste me in shall, for my comforts are already consumed:
 and in that consumption let all things but my memory
 turne to its first Chaos: And so I leave as I was for-
 nate:

Onely in remembrance.

Northampton.
Septemb. 6.

F.L.

Her

Hec Answer. 1 A

How much I stand divided with the unreasonable
of your affection, my distracted writing may witness
wherein I can observe no order, because nothing in your
desires holds good proportion, you bid me love, and will not
heare when destiny denies it; and you seeke that rule from
me which is quite taken out of my knowledge: (deare Sir)
awaken up your first wisdom, and tye your actions on
providence, then shall you see I have lesse power to draw
on mine, then you to withstand your affection. Till you make
beauty such a slave, that it must obey every gaze, or the
poore owner so unfortunate, that shee must bee servile to the
desire of any wilfull longing, then so, how much safer were
it to be foule and fortunate: But you will dye, woos mee
that folly should make you so impudent, to boast you dare
doe a sinne so damnable: But I know you will dye, but as
actors dye, in one scene and revive in the next, to make it
more glorious, thus to dye I allow you, and to such I will
give a smile for pittie: to any other a charitable teare, to
thinke that any Gentleman should become a traitor to
Nature. Lastly, let me warn you by the love you boast of,
never henceforth to sollicite me, for as no reliefe can come
from such vaine labour, so nothing but greave vildaine will
grow from my verasion: So hoping you will make that
hope desperate, which is without all hope of vertue, I rest,

Your chaste friend.

Rowel March 7.

P.C.

Your friend

C 3

A

W.A

A Letter of true kindnesse.

If some Nature had bene pleased to haue made my bos-
some transparent, your eyes should see the secrets of my
heart, which if it haue any happinesse in the world, it is
in the hope of your fauour: but amazed with the admirati-
on of your worth, I know not what to say of your worthi-
nesse, but onely this, that finding the due of your desert ex-
ceeding my capacitie in commendation, I will leaue the
excellencie thereof to more honourable inuention, and
thinke its fortune enough favourable, if she prefer my service
to your commandement: presents I haue none worthy the
sending, but the heart of my loue at your employment, which
being nothing more then what you will, I rest, euery one
and the same.

Your seruant.

W.W.

Her Answer.

If your speeches be led by your thoughts, it is needlesse to
desire a transparencie in your bosome, for when as the
heart and the tongue agree together, then mens protestati-
ons are followed with reall perfozmance: words of admi-
ration trouble discretion, in construction, and eloquence in
loue hath not the best commendation, inuentions are ready
where fancie is studious, but where wit is vertuous, there
is will gracious: your present most worthy of all accep-
tance, cannot be better requited then thankfully remem-
bered, and if conceits meete in a mutuall content, what com-
fort may follow, I leaue to the heauens fauour, and so I
rest,

Your friend.

A.W.

A Letter of counsell from a discreet mother to
her daughter newly married.

My good daughter, thou art now going into the world,
and must leaue to be a child, and learne to be a mo-
ther, and looke to a familie, rather then to the entertain-
ment of a friend, and yet both necessarie, in their kindes:
finde the disposition of thy husband, and in any wise moue
not his impatience, let thy kindnesse binde his loue, thy
vertue his comfort, thy hushworie his commendations:
avoid fastling Gallies, yet bee kinde to thy neighbours, and
no stranger to thy kindred: be gentle to thy seruants, and
not ouer familiar: haue an eye to thy doore, and a locke to
thy chest: keepe a bit for a begger, and a bone for a dogge:
cherish the Wæ that brings home honte, and make much of
the Cocke that makes much of his Chickens, take heede
abroade of the Kite, and within of the Kat: pray to God for
his blessings on all thy proceedings, and haue a religious
care of thy modest government, and rather for charitie
then praise, giue reliefe vnto the poore: if at any time thou
hast neede of any good I can doe thee, be assured whilst thou
hast a mother thou hast a friend: so hoping in thy kindnesse,
thou wilt take care of my counsell, beseeching God to blesse
thee, that I may euer haue joy of thee, with my hearts loue,
to his tuition I leaue thee.

Thy most louing mother.

R.S.

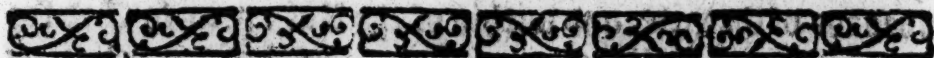
Her Answer.

My good Mother, I haue passed the yeares of a Child
and know the care of a mother & therefore for your
kinde aduise for my carriage I thanke you, and what benefit

I will make of your lessons, you shall finde in the fruit of my obseruation, I am but newly come into the world, and God knowes when I shall goe out of it, and am yet scarce warme in my house, and therefore hardly know yet how to goe through it, for my husbands humour, if he alter not his nature, I doe not doubt but wee shall liue as Doves, while care & kindnesse shall continue content: my seruants shall finde mee both a mistris and friend, my neighbours no stranger, & idle Gossips no companion. Thus in the duty of loue, with thanks for your motherly care, in prayer to the Almighty to blesse me with his grace, and to liue no longer then in his loue and yours: I take my leaue, for this time, but rest during life,

Your most louing daughter

P.E.



A Letter in case of wrong supposed to
be committed.

Sir, your letters more troublesome to my conceit, then flauouring (as I am credibly led to thinke) of that your wonted most noble disposition vnto mee, I haue receiued. With what supposition and vnaccustomed griefe I haue retained them, I referre to any one (guiltlesse accused and suspended from so high fauours, as formerly by your bounty to me haue bene perfozmed) simply to bee coniectured. Long was it ere I could satisfie my selfe by any accesse that might be, to profer my selfe by these humbled Letters vnto you, yet neuerthelesse weighing how farre different, those new occurrents were from those your ancient fauours, I surmised with my selfe, that the instigation proceeded solely from others, hardly perchance bearing those graces wherein

wherein I stood with you, and becoming thereupon my bitter enemies, the sinister devils whereof stood upon me wholly to overthrow or impugn. For which having no other or better meanes at this time then these submissive lines, I purpose them unto you as sollicitors of your former liking, confessing if in any waies I have erred unto you, as I will not utterly seclude my selfe from every error, it was but as a young man rather by ignorance then of malice any way to be intended: as touching any other objection, let me but crave pardon to have access into your presence, and then judge as you finde me: two waies are onely left: my accusers to my face, or mine owne simplicitie to cleare me. This is all I require, and so much I hope you will not denie me: wherewith resting with due acknowledgment of that your former bounty, I humbly surcease, this 15. of December, 1635.

Yours to command.

TGA



A letter from a servant to his master.

Sir, my humble duty remembred unto you, and to my good mistress. You may please to understand that I have dispatcht the businesse unto Master C. for the monie you sent mee for, and have given him an acquittance for the same, and according to your good remembrance unto me, I have bought for you twelve gallons of the best Hacke, and eightene gallons of Claret, and fiftene yards of fine Broad-cloth, and thirtie ells of fine Holland, all which I hope by Gods grace shall come unto your hands: I have sent you also here inclosed your Bill of parcels, and their severall prices.

all

D

E

Cupids Messenger.

I wrote formerly unto you for certain commodities out of the Country, which I have now received by the Carrier. There is at this present small newes worth the writing unto you: wherefore praying unto Almighty God for the health and prosperitie of you and all yours, I humbly take my leave, and rest,

Your faithfull and ready servant to command,

I.P.



An answer of a Letter for courtesie and fauour received.

My good friend M. C. how much I am bound unto you for a multitude of fauours, and especially for that you haue made choise of mee, as to write your kinde and friendly Letters in my behalfe, I can no other waies expresse, then to continue your affectionate poore friend, and will for ever acknowledge it, as of your great kindnes beyond any merit of mine owne, and as by duty I am bound, no day shall passe me that I will not pray to God for your health and prosperitie, and the redoubling of your dayes: beseeching you to excuse me in that in person I cannot doe as performe what I desire, by reason at this time some hast extraordinary will not permit me. I therefore most humbly take my leave of you, this 14. of May

Your affectionate poore

friend

P.C.

The

The fathers Letter against the Sonne.

The sight of your Letters & message received by your servant, haue (good Cousen) bred to mee in perusing and hearkning vnto the same no small matter of disquiet: not that your Letters or messages for themselves are or haue bene at any time ill welcome to my hands, but in respect of him for whom they come, so filled haue I been long since with the euills by him committed. I am nothing ignorant that of more lone and good will you framed your speech vnto me in the behalfe of my ingratiuous Sonne, I haue brought him vp to a mans estate: how likewise I sought both with maintenance & place of credit to continue him as a Gentleman. I placed him with a right godly and worshipfull Knight Sir T.H. who for my sake loued him, and I know tooke paines to reforme him. Complaints were infinite against him. This man could not be quiet for him, that mans seruants he misbused: this party hee deceived, and others highly wronged. Since which, (too much to be reuealed) how stubboznlly in mine owne house, how inturionally amongst my owne people hath hee behaued himselfe. And because it was against Christmas, and I would not dismitte him vnfurnished, I gaue him for himselfe and his man, a couple of good Geldings, and twenty pound in his purse: he was no sooner gone twentie miles, but spent his money at Cards and Dice, pawned his apparell, sold his Geldings, and in the end comming to one of my Tenants to borrow money, which he denied to lend him, he fell vpon him and beat him. Thus (louing Cousen) you see in part his ill led life, and may thereby conceiue my grieffe: sending in the meane time my commendations and earnest thanks for your care of my wel being, to you and your fellows. This 20. Aug. 1635.

T.R.

D^a

The

The Answer.

I Have receiued your letter (my kinde vncke) in answer to the last letter I sent, which was the businesse of your son. I am very soze that a Gentleman of your grauity & knowledge in the world, and soz the good estimation that the country hath of you, that Master E.C. your sonne, should deale so unkindly with you. I knowe your fatherly care of him from time to time, and how diligent, and not sparing any cost in bztinging him vp, & to place him with a Gentleman of the best ranke in all the country: it was nobly done, yet withall you might (if so you please) doe well to consider hee is your owne sonne, and if you looke into your owne youth, you shall finde these were your youthfull straines, and so much the moze to be bozne withall, and time and age will tame all these things in an ingenious and witty Gentleman. I desire you soz my sake retain him kindly in to your fauour this once moze, soz he hath (vpon the reputation of a Gentleman) promised netter to doe the like enornities, but to liue as a most dutifull and louing sonne: and soz the same I dare passe my credit. I pray you entertaine him respectuely, and I will ever remaine,

Your louing kinsman.

T.F.

To

To his mistress (*quondam*) hauing spent all his
 meanes vpon her in prosperitie, he
 being imprisoned she
 forsakes him.

If my paper were made of the skins of croking Toades,
 or speckled Adders, my inke of the blood of Scorpions,
 my pen pluckt from the Screech-owles wings, they were
 but fit instruments to write vnto thee, that art moze vene-
 mous, moze poisonous, moze ominous, then the worst of
 these: for doe but descend into the depth of thy guiltie con-
 science, and see with how many bowes, promises, and deepe
 protestations, nay million of oathes hast thou sworne thy
 fidelitie to mee, which one day will witness against
 thee. If I should speake with the voice of Thunder, or
 as loud as the noise of the Summers thunder, yet could I
 not proclaim vnto the world thy infinite basenesses, I
 being so firme and constant vnto thee; when I swamme in
 the golden floods of prosperitie, then wast thou (as often
 thou dost protest) firme and constant vnto me: But when
 the water began to ebbe, and my ship run on ground, then
 (like thy selfe) thou forsookest me. At first thy love was as
 hot to me, as an Italian to a wench of fiftene, but when
 my gold was spent and consumed, then thy love grew as
 cold to me, as a Fishmongers fingers are in a great frost.
 Doe not thinke I write this vnto thee to bee a meanes to
 helpe me in this my great distresse and imprisonment: for
 know thou though all my friends haue forsaken mee, nay
 though death, griefe, affliction, and all the miseries that
 possibly can befall a miserable man in this wretched world
 while he liueth here, and all these griefes doe every minute
 torment me, yet I had rather fall by their force, then rise
 by thy assistance: so hatefull, so greivous, so loathsome, so
 tedious, and so incomparably abominable is thy very name
 vnto me.

Leprosie compared to this, is all health: and all manner of infection but a flea biting: and all manner of diseases, though they were fetcht from twenty Hospitals, were but like the fit of an Ague: for thou art all Leprosie, all diseases, for neither thy bodie nor thy soule are free: thy bodie, from the disease of shame and disgrace of the world: nor thy soule free from the sickness of sinne. God amend and pardon this.

Once thy friend.



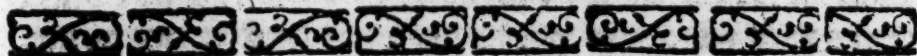
To his friend lying long sicke.

My worthy friend Walter Prince: though the distance of place be such, that wee cannot heare one another, you in the center of the kingdome (London) I at Yorke, yet you shall see me in my Letters: my tongue, my penne, my heart, are all your servants. You plainly perceiue a long lingering sickness will draw you to a long desired rest, where long your minde hath had his residence. You now perceiue, shame is but a smoke, metals but dross, pleasure but a pill in sugar. All these earthly delights if they were sound, how short they are, fleeting every day: they are but as a good day betwixt two Agues, or like Sodoms Apples, faire red outsid, being handled are blacke dust. I admire the faith of Moses, but presupposing his faith, I wonder not at his chosse, that he preferred the affliction of Israell to the pleasures of Egypt, and chose rather to eat the Lambe with sours herbs, then all their flesh-pots. What God hath giuen you a vertuous Wife, outfull Children, wealth in abundance, an honest esteeme and a good repute amongst your neighbours and the generall loue of your countrie

country where you live, are fauours that looke for thanks:
 Who would desire to live, that knowes his fauour dies:
 who can be a Christian and would not bee like him? would
 you bee happy & not die? indeed Nature knowes not what
 she would haue. Our friends of this world can neither a-
 bide vs miserable in our stay, nor happy in our departure.
 What God hath giuen you on earth, is nothing to that he
 will giue you in heauen: you are a stranger here: there at
 home. There Saints and Angells shall applaud you, there
 God himselfe will fill you with himselfe: haue patience in
 all afflictions, and reade the troubles of Iob, and in that
 exercise your selfe both day and night, untill God shall ei-
 ther mende or end these your dayes on earth. To which
 great God and mercifull Lord I commit you, praying for
 your eternall rest.

Remaining your friend.

I.M.



A Letter wherein is recommended to a Nobleman
 from his inferiour, the conditions and
 : behauiour of a person.

MAY it please your Lordship, this gentlemā the bearer
 hereof, with whom a long time I haue been acquaint-
 ed, and of his qualities and good behauiour haue found
 and large experiment, hauing been a good time a suter vnto
 me, to moue his preferment vnto your Lordships seruice:
 I haue now at last condescended vnto, as well for that I
 know your Lordship to bee now presently disarmed of
 such a one, as also that there will hardly be preferred vpon
 the sudden any one so meet as himselfe to supply that place.
 And thus much by your pardon and allowances dare I as-
 sure

sure unto you, that if it may please you in credit of my simple knowledge and opinion, so imploy him, you shall finde that hee is in parentage descended from such of whom I know your Lordship will very well account of, he is also learned, discret, sober, wise, and moderate in all his actions, of great secrecie, assured trust, and well governed in all companies. Finally, a man so meet and to this present turne so apt and necessary as I cannot easily imagine how you may bee served better. Please your Lordship the rather, for the great good will I beare him, and humble suite I doe unto you, to accept, imploy, and account of him; I nothing doubt but your Lordship having by such meanes given credit to my choise, shall finde him such, as for whose good service, you shall have further occasion to thinke well of me for him, wherof nothing doubting I doe referre both him and my selfe, in all humblenes to your best and most favourable opinion. From my house in Archingworth this 5. of Iune.

The Answer.

After my hearty commendations unto you. Withence the receipt of your last letters and commendations of W.R. unto my service, I have had small occasion either to write or to send unto you till this present: and for as much as upon your certain notice delivered unto me in favour of his preferment, I held my selfe so well assured in all things of his behaviour, as I doubted not thereupon to receive him into place of greatest fidelity. I have thought good hereby to let you understand, what great pleasure I have taken in his diligent attendance, assuring you, for many undescribed qualities, which I have proved to be in him; and that with so good affection, as that I intend not to omit any thing that may tend to his advancement. In beholding of him oftentimes, we thinke he many wayes doth resemble his father, whose sound truth I doe suppose might have been entertained

certained with the best for his well deserving: this bearer shall informe you of two speciall causes concerning my affaires in the country, to whom I do pray you to conferre with and to afford him your travell for his present dispatch, which I will not faile heartily to requite unto you. For your care had of my wants, and diligent supply of such a one, I doe many times thanke you. And even so I bid you heartily farewell.

From the Court this 5. of
May, 1635.



A merry Letter to to his friend in London

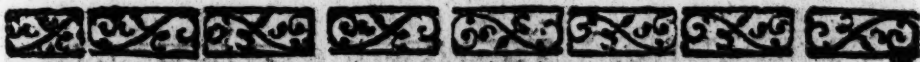
Heroicall spirit:

I Have receined your Epistle of alacritie, and remaine much indebted to your kinde heart for vouchsafing vs poore country Swaines so much of the labour of your pen to deceiue slow-footed time withall: Thanks unto the Almighty, I haue had my health indifferent well since my coming downe, onely the separation of my second selfe hath bene a continuall sicknesse unto me: to remedy which I haue hitherto founde out no better way then to call for a cup of Rubicular, to helpe to exhilarate and corroborate my fatigated spirits. The Ruricolars are very barren of any novelty, worthy the presenting to your curious understanding, but doe presume out of the bundle of your affection that you that lins at the wels head will be pleased to vouchsafe vs your poore friends a report by your Letters, at least of such Exchange newes as passeth currant amongst you, which we shall take as a speciall fauour from you, and study how to remunerate. We are at this present putting foot into the stirrop, and riding some dozen horse of vs to a maritime coast, where there wil be provided for vs al the rarities

Cupids Messenger.

ties for which the Sea can afford, where I will not bee
mindfull to remember all your healths in a full ocean. In
the meane time commending my loue to my louing sister
your wife, with your worthy selfe and all our friends, I
wish you all true happinesse suitable to a bzaue disposition,
and will euer rest,

Your assured louing
Brother.
R.S.



A Letter gratulatorie.

Good Mr. P.

I Am yet to learne the phrase and method how to write to
so beneficent a friend as your selfe, to whom I stand
obliged more by desert then I can answer with requittall,
and more in affection then I am able to merit: a predicament
it is into which I am cast, and often (as it were)
precipitated, & out of which to raise my selfe, fortune only
hath disabled me, who if with your gifts she had supplied my
wants, and given mee competent wealth to the freedom of
my will, my honest heart should not be debtoz to the hand
of any, nor should my disability curbe the scope of my af-
fection: but seeing wishes are but vaine, I pray you accept
these my lines as tokens of the remuneration of my thanks
and the acknowledgement of the loue of

Your humble seruant

D.R.

Cupid's Messenger.

31

A Letter to his silent friend.

You are happily innocent (dearest friend) what paine I am in, and with what unrest I spend my irkesome daies, though your parcimoniousnesse, and sparing of a little inke and paper: As it not enough that I am depzined of your sight, but I must be also vn saluted by your Letters: one of them alone doth too weightily oppresse me with sorrow, and ouerwhelme my heart with disquietnesse. As place hath wrought a separation betwene our bodies, will you permit also that a few daies absence shall burie each others remembrance in the Lethargie waves of oblivion, oh be not so inturious vnto sacred friendship, which is the greatest toy allotted vnto mortall men in all the vniuers: I haue got the start of you in writing, but I hope I shall not need to send you any more expostulatory Letters for your slacknesse in this kinde. For the sound state of my body I am well, yet I cannot be said to be perfectly well, being (as I am) so sollicitous for your welfare, and so ignorant of your health, who are *Anima dimidium mea*.

Farewell,

Anima dimidium tua.

B.M.

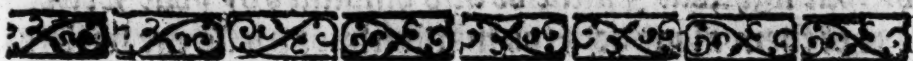
The Answer, excusing his not writing.

Let the multitude of my businesses and my want of bodily health, and debility, plead my excuse with you for my remissenes in writing. The vzt of these present lines is to apologize for that I writ to you no sooner, and to enquire of your health and welfare. Compare not, nor do not thinke my lone as little as my writing, for I protest vnfeignedly, that if I may reach you in any kind, or if any means can procure any thing to make a clearer manifestation of

my manifold loue, you shall assuredly find. Whensoever any occasion shall offer, it selfe to you, to make triall what great interest you haue in me and my best affection, I cease, euer resting

Yours to my power.

W.W.

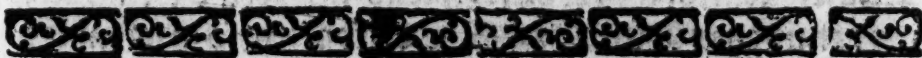


A letter expostulatorie for breach of promise.

I had bene moze honestie in you to haue giuen mee a speedy denial, then not to perfoyme what you so constantly promised me, for then you had not iniured mee, because you had not owed mee any thing. Promise is debt: for I yet hope you are none of the number of those men who thinke promises doe not bind them vnto perfoymance: this is my beliefe of you yet, it is in your power to make mee hold as alter my opinion. I onely desire thus much of you, if you will not doe mee that good turne, yet leaue doing mee iniurie: feed mee not with impoſſible words, but bid mee not trust any longer to vaine hopes. In brieſe, you shall much oblige me by doing that kindnesse, by omission thereof you shall make me muse at the lacke of your fidelitie and at your carelesnesse to incurr the report and infamy of a dishonest man.

Your iniured friend.

H.G.



To his friend false to pouertie.

If your wealth had bene the foundation of my loue, I should now cease to loue, because you are no longer rich, but

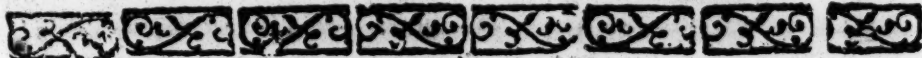
Cupids Messenger.

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But should I now so erre, I should shew my selfe to haue
bene unto you in your prosperitie not a friend, but (like
unto the rest; that haue derelinquished you in your power,
ty) a mere flatterer: we see how during the Summer time
the swallows flocke to our houses, we may obserue how
Honey will be sure to get into the barne, that is replenished
with cozne; and while the pot hath any hony it is hard kee-
ping the flies away: but rare is the friendship which lasts
not in the probation time of aduersitie. Besides that poore
comfort of aduersity, pittie, I lend you the summe of twenty
pounds, which so long make vse of, till Time, the mother
of mutations, encrease your store with a proportion able
to make repaiment to

Your friend to his
ability.

I.R.



A Letter of a Gentlewoman to a Gentleman with
whom she fell in loue.

If euer I could wish my selfe vnbozne (most worthy sir)
of my well being taken from mee, I call truth and my
sometimes modesty to witnesse, it is now: not that I haue
found you, but that I am forced thus to seeke you. Call to
minde (faire, and I hope vertuous Sir) some horrid and
violent women, taken with the loue of their owne fathers,
as was Mirha: or incestuously pursuing their nearest bro-
ther, as was Biblis: so my affection will appeare moze mo-
dest, and my suite moze pardonable: I dearely loue you,
(and in so saying me thinks the gods blush to heare me,)
who in the strictest lawes of desire is most worthy to be
loued, whose vertues might inflame a Junne, and excel
lentest.

gentlest qualities take the most retired: If I haue (as I know too well I haue) contrarie to the nature and custome of Virgins, ouerthot my selfe in my violent passions, pardon her that had rather die then make it knowne, yet chuseth rather to make it knowne, then not enioy you so desired, and farre more worthy to bee desired. If you were acquainted what afflictions I suffer in my disconerts, yet fearing all will not serue, you will, I hope, rather incline to pittie, then disdain: little will the death of a silly mayden auail the triumph of your beautie, and the ouerthrow of my credit lesse benefit your vertue. Waite me from the one by your loue, & assure mee from the other by your secrecie: whilest I will ever remaine a most constant votarisse of all your perfections, blessing the parents that left behind them such an issue.

Althorp. May 22.

Neuer lesse her owne.

R.D.

His Answer.

HOW happie may I thinke my selfe (sweetest of creatures, & beautifullest of women) that hauing bound my selfe in the search and pursuite of a ieuell, haue it now offered & giuen into my hands, farre aboue my expectation; far transcending my hopes; I accept it as louingly, as you freely bestow it, and will account it no lesse deare and precious, then if much time and long labour had bene the purchase of it, esteeming it a blessing thowne vpon me, by the appointment of the highest, and, suitable to my happie desires. Nor shall I needs to load my memorie with those horrid examples, to giue your loue a frer sweet comer passage into the very depth of my loue and choicest desires: to loue wee were made, and by loue wee are made: they onely are without being that haue not the heavenly taste and enioying

laying of it, I onely denie those excellencies which you lay
to my vnguiltie charge, it was the reflection of your owne
worth (stricken from me) which hath Narcissus like so in-
amoured you, it was your owne image shewne in my eyes,
which hath thus captivated you: which since you like in
so dim and dull a myrrore, I will cherish, and make much
of it only for your sake, that you may the perfectlier see your
selfe, and the more love me for your love, take all I am, for
my secrecie, I will not breathe it to my selfe how I attaine
this happynesse, but living and dying, rest the true honour
er and admirer of your worth and vertue,

Yours more then his owne.

H.H.



A letter from a Chapman in the Country to a
Tradesman in London.

My loving and kinde friend M.G. you have done mee
much wrong in detaining the wares I writ for: I
have disappointed some Gentlemen in relying upon you,
whose custome hath much advantaged mee: my credit I
hope will ever bee above that value: and my dealing for
much more yearly betweens vs might without other cir-
cumstances therein have satisfied you: I must tell you
plaine, in the Country there are many good men, whose es-
tates are knowne very sufficient, which cannot raise mo-
ney vpon their credit in an instant: we want a common
banke with vs which might furnish vs suddenly and tho-
rowly: Whokers trade not here, nor Usurers take their
place, but in Summer for their recreation: thinke, (friend)
me an honest man, and so you have much cause to thinke:
confident in which, though my estate were brittle, (as I
thanke

thanks god) I know it is sure: you may bee assured, I will neuer faile noꝛ deceiue you. I come not beyond my com-
passe, neither make a sure foundation out of other mens
ruines, but content with a little, leaning a blessing to my
childzen, and good memoꝛie amongst my neigbours. Let
me heare from you concerning the cause of this breach, and
a note of the reckoning betweene vs, which I will make
ouer, and rather rest honest then rich.

Your true friend as you
shall vse me.

L.M.

The Answer.

M After M. truly it much grieues me you were so disap-
pointed, and the negligence of my man went not a-
way unpunished, by whose default the Carrier went with-
out them: believe me on my word, and I account my selfe
happier in being a master of that, then in much riches, no
feare of payment, noꝛ least doubt of your estate was any
hinderance to it: I haue well knowne you by others, & haue
had so much experience of you my selfe, that you shall sooner
want occasiō for wares, then I confidence to trust you: your
neighbours speake much good of you, and all men that
know you giue you a faire report, which makes me happy
both in your custome and friendship. If finisier occasions
shall at any time happen (as while we are here they are in-
cident vnto vs) I shall rather pittie your fortunes then cal
inquestion your faire dealings. And knowe we are all men
accountable euery instant for all our possessions. The Car-
rier this weeke brings those commodities, and better and
more vendible you neuer had of me: and I verily believe
the Gentlemen will think themselves happily repaid in the
stay with the exceeding goodnes & lastingnes of the wares,

For your reckonings, at more leisure I will peruse & send them, in whose place receiue my kind commendations, and entreaty for my mans carelesnesse, I bid you most heartily farewell.

Your friend as you know.

I.G.



A Letter of thankfulness for kindnesse, shewed
to his Sonne.

SI see, the fauours you haue already done me, are of such effect and merit, that I shall neuer bee at quiet untill I haue made some requitall of them. I am ashamed you should bee thus continually troubled with a sonne of mine, whom I haue charged to obey you in all things as my selfe and I pray you doe so much as haue a carefull hand ouer him, as if you were his father, or bee your onely child: I kindly and hartily thanke you for the apparell you haue made him lately, which is decent, comely, and profitable, and the money you haue paid for him, you may accomodate him with the rest if you thinke it fitting: for my part I giue you all power and authoritie ouer him, seeing you are pleased to take the trouble vpon you. So wishing but to meete with some good occasion that may lie in my power, to acknowledge how much I am beholding vnto you, I for this time commit you to the protection of the Almighty. Resting

Your assured louing
friend.

D.B.

The

The answer.

M After B. I haue receiued your Letter concerning your son. Sir, for any fauour I can doe you, either in this or any other, I shall be right willing, knowing how much from time to time I and mine are bounden vnto you. And assure your selfe it shall bee no trouble vnto mee to vse the best of my counsell and care ouer him. For his apparell, it will keepe him warme, I know, which is the principall thing I ayme at, & I hope pleasing to him and his friends. The other money I shall deliuer him as I shall see good both for himselfe to vse, and the credit of you his father. Whereouer (Sir) he is to me very dutifull and louing, by which he shall lose nothing in my care of his welfare, & hee very well spends his time at Schoole, and to good purpose I hope: wherein I doubt not you shall haue great comfort. He be- haueth himselfe so well by his good demeanour to all, that he is generally beloued of al my neighbours. For my power and authoritie ouer him, I wil imploy my selfe only for his good, and your fatherly care committed to me. And so with a thousand commendations I commit you to God.

Your friend,

I.D.



A Letter to his Mistris in the country that de-
fired newes from the Citie.

Most excellent mistris, your command (which is to me a law) binds me to obey you, and though the taske bee infinite hard to containe so great a beast in so little pa- per, yet for your satisfaction, I will delineate to life the proportion

Cupids Messenger. 39

proportion of some of his members: It is newes you desire
 & believe me (faire one) since I came into the City, I haue
 not sene or heard any thing old; euen from the Capitoll,
 to the Cottage, all things are in their new garments, the
 Court hath new fauourites, the Citie a new Senate, and
 the common-wealth new officers: the first are as great as
 good, the second are as rich as wise, and the third as alwe-
 full as iust, Men are new, for where they should loue they
 feare, women are new, for where they should honour they
 subdue, and children are new, for where they should reue-
 rence they astonish, Customes and manners are new, for
 the poore daily feede the rich, the rich cozen the great, and
 the great make fooles of the good ones: The fashions
 though they were neuer old, are now newet then euer,
 for in man or woman there is not a paynt to chuse betwixt
 the sexes, the one hath descended so much downward, and
 the other ascended so much upward, that met in one circle,
 they are both now trussed up together without difference:
 Apparell that was made to couer, is now made to discover
 folly and lewdnesse, and they are finest that are nearest to
 the naked anatomie: Discourse is new, for wise men talke
 of their wealth, learned men of their deceit, and great men
 of vanitie, Old men like old ~~W~~alues boast of their preyes
 past, middle age like Lyons talke of that which is in their
 powers, & children like dogges backe of the reueniges which
 shall be: our Citizens like Ases are proud of ritch bur-
 thens, and like Apes, toy in pyde trapping, and our gal-
 lants like Beere-brewers booke bragge how much drinke
 they can carry. To conclude, all things are new, that
 euen vertue her selfe is despised in old garments, and he
 that keepeth any phrase of his forefathers, is but a rude
 speaker, for to say *Hic mulier*, is now the purest and truest
 Latine. Thus (my deare Mistress) you haue the newest
 selues of the season, which I write rather to keepe you in
 your old way of vertue, then to lose your selfe in the folly
 of imitation, I know your goodness, and how true a re-

warder it is of its owne merits, relie vpon it euen, it will make your end happie and my life fortunate, that am the seruant of so great a perfection.

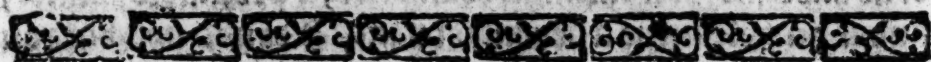
T.W.

Her Answer.

You haue sent me (worthy seruant) my desire back with so great an interest, that I stand thus wayes fearefull how to receiue it, either to incurre the suspicion of too greedy an inquiry, or the enuy of a weake nature, that is pleased with detraction: for both which I am free, in as much as my ayne is held within the leuell of modesty. I confesse, the parts you haue giuen mee may belong to a beast, or rather a Monster, for the Shape hath little proportion: yet I haue heard of excellent Painters which haue made curious pieces of perspective, that beheld with a liberall eye on the plaine Table, hath appeared ugly & most deformed, but the sight strained and bestrone into a more seuerer & narrow compass, it hath bene beautifull, and in the glory of the best perfection: such, I feare, was the picture from whom you tooke your copie, and looking vpon it the wrong way, you saw the lines, but not the beautie. I doe confesse, the world is old, yet not so old but I may continue to weare out many new garments. Age makes it subject to sickness & infirmity, and what better defence then warme and sound clothing: Sicknesse brings corruption, and ill fauours, what better prevention then much shift and many new things: so that I conclude, these novelties which you dislike are but to cure something in the world that is unwholesome. Again I haue some an Italian Comedy, consisting of a louer, a woman, a rary or fool, & a deuill, & to it I may fashion the world, for that is the stage, the people the actors, each degree haue their rary and their deuill: so that the rary will steale his masters apparell, and make his seruants viceroy: & the deuill will make difference

difference, blame not the discretion of the master, lest hee
 nise new fashions, till either the foolish; any be tryed, or the
 deuill for his pride fetch him away, and conclude the enter-
 lode. This (my best servant) you may apply at your plea-
 sure, for mine innocencie hath taught mee that charity, not
 to accuse any of that crime I would not my selfe bee guilty,
 nor is my defence and argument to draw on your silence:
 but rather a motive to make you more liberall, in bestow-
 ing on me the rest of your collections: in which doubt not
 my constancy, since no enchantments can make me forget
 to preserve my selfe ever worthy to be your Mistresse.

M.S.



A wooing and comfortable Letter to a noble widow
 that had newly lost her husband.

Though (my noble widow) I am the last that send you
 comfort, yet was I the first that felt your anguish, and
 will be the readiest of all men to serue you in your trouble:
 you haue lost a dearly desired husband, & found an infinite
 way to griefe, the one is the act of Nature, & cannot be pre-
 uented, the other is the worke of Nature, and by wisdom
 must be corrected: Remember (faire Widow) who is gone
 (a good man) to whom he is gone (to a good God) and from
 whom (from the wicked World, and worse people) and
 you shall find more cause to praise heauen for his happines,
 then to murmur for your losse of comfort; a good man dies
 to liue, theres your ioy, an ill man liues to die, theres true
 anguish, : the ioyes of marriage should be writ in Table,
 booke, not upon paper, that Widowes might blot and
 rubbe out the writing, for they ought not to remember the
 delights past, but to meditate on pleasure to come, not to
 marry for eternitie, but during the will of heauen, neither

have you lost any thing, for hee was but a treasure lent you, and to grieve at the repaiment were to wrong your goodnesse with ingratitude. *Belâue mée Madame*, were your cure in my hands, as your grieve is at my heart, neither should your anguish hurt you nor the memorie of your losse serve a moment, but it is in heauen and your wise dome, couple them together by yielding to providence; and you shall see your comforts flow upon you in a new tyde, you have reputed me your friend, and shaped your best actions by my counsels, you were never more weake then now because alone, nor did you ever stand in more neede, because many assaults are prepared against you: to keepe you then in perfect safetie, please you make mee of a tryed friend, a true husband, of a faithfull counsellor, a profitable Ruler, and of an able helpe a devout servant, I doubt not but you shall finde that armor against all necessities, which shall both guard you against injuries, and bring you much honour, my character you know best, for I am no stranger, and my zeale you may judge by my former services, if they appeare faultlesse before you, there will be noe let but ceremony, which to countenance against vertue, were to be guilty of foule superstition: you are wise, and that wise dome I make my advocate, if he approve me worthy to be yours, my faith shall make mee your truest servant among the living.

F.R.

Her answer.

SI had the comfort you sent me comine in a true wedding garment, pure and one intire kusse: I could not have chosen but retained it as the rest of your chaste counsels, and feasted on it with my daily meditation, but being so disorderly patcht, I can neither beliene it is yours, nor affect that which is so uncomely. You have sent mee delicate
gilt

gilt pills; where though the gold bee more then the poison yet is this poison enough to confound. Therfore as much as with safety I may retaine (for your ancient friendship) I will keepe and study, the rest pardon mee to returne you, not out of malice to your wish, but grieve at your folly, you haue told me so well the excellency of my losse, that it were madnesse in mee to runne into a second hazard, & how euer you would take from widdowes the blisse of remembrance, yet beare Sir know that I can neuer forget this maxime, that the death of a good husband ought not to take away the loue of a chaste wife. To conclude, what you desire is not in my power to grant, for all my loue I haue sent with him to the graue, whom I haue lost: & to holdme without that portion, were to grasp a cloud that would bring forth a centaur, yet from thence should either fate or my follies deliuer it, I could not finde any more worthy then your selfe to keepe it: but the first is too constant, and the latter (I hope) shall neuer so farr rule in mee: Therfore being as you were, a chaste counsellor, and no seduser, you shall finde mee, as you haue done, a faithfull cabinet full of your goodnesse.

E.L.



Another to the same purpole

Much honoured Mistris.

THe neuer ceasing streame of your grations kindnesse hath by the often thinking on their due desernings profoundly imbosomed themselves in my gratefull affection, which no course of tedious time canne extenuate, nor the longest absence by distance haue power to diminish. But oh most kind meriter of all respect, whose good will I estimate as my greatest enrichment, although the condigne requitall of such your rare courtesies lye not in the repaie
and

and preclust of my poore power, whose tenuity is not able to paye such an exceeding tribute: yet how willing my mind is, and how inextinguishable my desires, this illiterate Epistle will testifie, which denoyd of elegancies, yet full fraught with the vnfeigned profession of my loue, promisseth the imployment of my uttermost powers in all seruiceable endeauours, if all that I can doe may but defray one mite of your inualluable courtesies Command my seruice, there is not any thinge so great that I will shrinke, or so small that I will disdain to effectuate for your sake, hauing vowed to dye before any word issuing from your lips shall come in vaine.

But lest I should detract too much time from your more serious affaires, in all humility I take my leave.

Yours unfainedly.

P.Q.

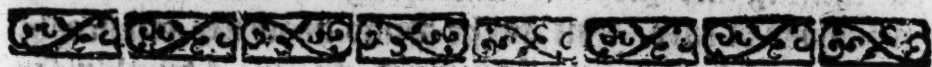
Her Answer.

Though I am far from vanity to esteem my selfe worthy of the stile of beauty, yet I see not how to excuse your sinister opinion, that would thereto annex so great an inconuenience: for it seemes (if things might be ordered by your minde) you would haue beauty and loue to be inseparable companions: oh grosse, oh absurd wish, and most execrable position against beauty and loue. When any vicious, deformed or beggerly creature, being but conducted by good fortune to the view of some rare Virgin, this vntworthynesse must not onely bee entertained, but hee that rather deserves to be hysled away with disdain, must straight bee made the owner and Lord of her loue: For shall it bee in her power to giue a repulse to the presumption of indigne suiters, or to make free election of a deserving personage, to honour him with her gracious fauour.

But I hope sir, being thus clearly convinced, you will confesse and make recantation of your error, I rest as I haue reason.

Yours not to vse.

S.M.



A Letter of discontent after the falling out of Louers.

Most discourteous and painted friend.

It is the custome of Louers after the breach of their league and amity, to send backe those gratuities, which formerly passed as tokens of their naturall affections: you haue taken by the fashion, and beleene me I abhorre any longer to haue nearenesse with one of your qualification, who for mere trifles can dissolve the knot of friendship, and shake hands with familiarity. For know that your me, moze which was sometime deare in my thoughts, is now abhorred seeing that the firmnesse and stability of affection, (then which there is nothing ought by men moze religion, ly to be obserued) you haue so causelessly brought to annihilation. I may paralell my present condition to the state of the Sonne when pitchy clouds with environing him round about, seeme to extingwish his splendor, but time the perfecter of all terrestriall things, may in due season impart a lighter correspondant to my hopes, and suitable to my disposition: till when I will scorne the blasts of aduersity, and all those who hauing little or no merit, are endowed by the dispensation of the whole eye goddess Fortune with large possessions: howsoeuer if I can find no better to conuerse and spend my time withall then your selfe, I will turne Momus and for ever hate the society of men: but hauing a better opinion of the generallty, for your part I cathere you with this Vltimum vale and rest,

A stranger. A. B.

¶

To

To his angry Mistris,

As the declining of the Sunne brings a generall darknesse and discomfort, so the deficiency and absence of your shining and glorious fauours hath ouerconered me with clouds of care. But as the Sunns heavenly essence by the course of Nature is daily renewed, so here I humbly sue that your wonted gracious aspect may returne in your countenance, to solace the dolefull heart of your seruant with vicissitude of long intermitted alacritie, it will redound to your great commendation, when the world shall vnderstand that your heart is of ware, not inerozable & of a flinty and adamantyne constitution, hoping that you will be as ready compassionately to grant as I doe submissively imploze the renouation of your loue, I rest,

Yours in vnutterable affection,

R.S.



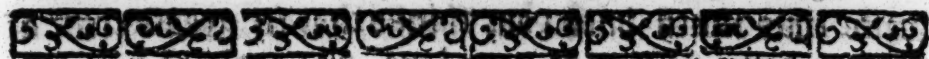
A Letter from an Apprentice in London, to his father in the Country.

My humble dutie remembred you. Father vnto you and my mother. Having the opportunity of this bearer, I thought good to certifie you of my present being, giuing you to vnderstand that I am, I thanke God and you, in good health, and very well placed here in London, where I am in hope to continue my here being to some profitable & good purpose: My Father bleth me in good sort, and I want nothing that appertaines to such a one as my selfe. I trust you shall haue ioy of me, and ere a few yeares passe, I doubt not but so to behaue my selfe that I shall well deserue

deserue this good liking that already I haue of my Master,
and further credit at his hands and imployment about his
businessse. I hope you and my mother, and all our friends
in the country are in good health, I pray you that you will
write vnto my master as occasion serueth, and thanke him
for his good blage: and if you can to remember him with
some good conuenient token out of the country. Thus desi-
ring your daily blessings, and with a recommendation of
my humble duty vnto you both, I take my leaue:

London. Your louing and obedient
sonne to command.

R.B.



A Letter from a husband to his wife.

Good wife, considering the hasty departure from you,
I and my childzen, my hope is that you will haue that
louing and respectiue care toward them and your family
that appertaineth. I haue left many things vnto by reason
of the suddenesse of my iourney, which stand vpon your
good regard to be ordered, as namely the charge of my ser-
uants, and the disposition of some other affaires and busi-
nesses. You shall now shew your selfe a discret and care-
full wife, if in my absence you will take vpon you to be in
my place. Regard and consider with your selfe, that ser-
uants are negligent and carelesse, and if the master forget
his owne profit, they are as ready as others to share with
his gaines. Your painefull attendance to ouer-look them,
shall straineth their labours to my vsing, your desire to see to
them, shall worke their vsing to my well desoruing. You
must now a little forget neighbourhood, and walking for
compantie, considering the old prouerbe, that when the Cat

is away, the House will goe play: If Master or Dame haue both continued absence, seruants fall a wasting, and doe what they list. You know good wife, I haue now taken a great charge of late vpon me, which with some care, full looking to may turne to good. Let it not bee grieuous vnto you, nor thinke it hard that I thus make you partaker of my charge, as I doe of my profit, for we are yoke-fellowes you know, and the charge is equall betwixt vs both to be borne and supported. If as louing mates and fellowes we draw forth together, we shall by Gods blessed goodnesse see the fruits of our labours: our children shall participate with vs of our trauells, and God shall prosper our endenours. And howbest good wife I haue euer found you such, as of whose care of my well doing I need haue no doubt, yet if by the importance of my charge I bee driuen to write thus much vnto you, thinke that in greate trust of your modesty, respect of your loue, and zeale to both our goods I haue done the same. And though no distrust remaine of any one about me, yet doe I put you in minde what youth by too much sufferance and giuing of libertie may be inclined to. This is all I would, and so much I hope as you gladly will hold vnto. Commend me many times vnto your selfe, kisse my little ones, and remember me, and commend my loue to all our friends. From Rye the 3. of Febr. 1635.

Your assured louing husband.

F.C.

Her Answer.

Good husband, I am glad you haue at last remembered your selfe by this bearer to write vnto me, that haue thought it very long vntill I heard from you. I doe greatly reioyce at the good & prosperous successe of your journey, and

and chiefly, that you haue endured your trauell so well, being in so good plight and strength of body, as I vnderstand you are by your Letter. We are much beholden vnto our good friends in the country that haue giuen you so great & good intertainment, and I pray you heartily commend mee vnto them. Your businesse here goeth very well, and your seruants both dutifull and diligent about their affaires, and wee haue no want but your presence, which if you would hasten hitherward, it wera a comfort vnto us all to see you, hauing bene as to mee if seemeth, very long absent. But Master Prince, and his friends where you are, blesse you so kindly, that I thinke you cannot well tell how to winde your selfe out from your good company. Yet good husband remember that at last you must come home, and the sooner the better. I referre all to your good discretion: & so commend mee most heartily vnto you. From London,

Your euer louing and
loyall wife.

R.G.



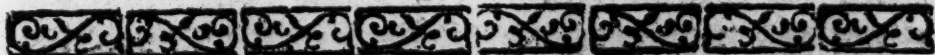
A Letter from one kinsman to another in London
or any other place.

M^y good Cousin, I am glad to heare of your good preferment in London, and that, as I heare by your father and mother, you are so well placed there, and with so good a Master. It is no little comfort to me to vnderstand that you doe so resolutely and with so good a minde dispose your selfe to your busines, which I gladly wish you would continue. You must now remember, that your friends with great care, charge and industry haue brought you by, and that their intent and meaning therein was, that in expectation thereof they should haue toy and comfort of you in

your elder yeares : for which as you have now bequeathed your selfe to this place of seruice, to must you for any feare of hard blage, bitternes of speech, or other mislike of taunts or rebukes, make account to endure and continue. It may bee, being yet vnacquainted with the customes and blage of London, you doe now thinke well of that which hereafter may turne to discontentment. But good cozen, so be it you have no want of things needfull and necessary, frame your selfe to forbear all those crosse matters whatsoeuer, and giue your selfe wholly on Gods name, to the benefit of your seruice, you shall therein want no helpe furtherance or incouragement on my part, and if you performe it well and honestly, you shall not want when time serueth for an hundred pound or two, if in the meane space I may see your good care of your Masters businesse, & please your Mistresse for therein you shall the better please your Master. Your friends are all well. Who reioycing in that already they see you so well behaued, doe daily pray to God to prosper & blesse you : and thus with my hearty commendations I bid you farewell Farndon this 18 of May 1635.

Your louing kinsman,

E.G.



A Letter to request the borrowing of an hundred Pounds.

SI R, I am bold in my great necessitie, under assurance of your forwardnes to doe mee good, to intreat your spectall aide & furtherance in two things, the one whereof is to lend me of your honored fauours one hundred pounds, the other this bearer shall instruct you in, both which consist in your kinde and friendly care of my welldoing. I am of opinion none other then your selfe can fit the occasion better,

Cupids Messenger.

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better, And truly such is the force of imprisonment, as contrary to that you haue countedly knowne in mee, my vnderstanding is quite decayed, and soe loseth with want of liberty, and where the spirits are so distressed, it much needes follow, the memorie must needes sound nothing but disoord. In fine, Sir, this is in you to doe mee good, and to make me by this onely action for ever beholden vnto you, wherein if I may so far forth presume of your fidelity, assure your selfe if ever God giue me liberty, to none so much as you shall I be voked in courtesie. Good master I. A. the matter hereof requirerh some haste, whereto I most heartily intreat you faile me not.

Fare yee well this 18. of December. 1635.

Your imprisoned friend,

I.S.

The Answer.

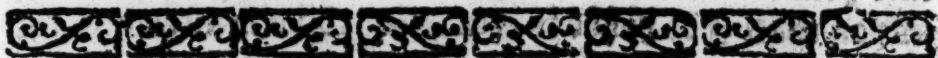
Good Master I. S. needsesse it were you should entreat me in that whereto you haue found me most willing, such with small persuasion you may induce to a far greater purpose then what in your last letter is required, the messenger I haue appointed to returne againe to my chamber to morrow morning, at which time I will not faile to send you your desired summe: for the other, hard will it be for me to accomplish that wherein your selfe seeme so vnperfect, for that the dullest conceit forged from the most distressed of your imaginations cannot but sound far better times then the ripest of my inventions any way are able to deliuer. neuertheless such as it is, or (by dislike of your owne) you haue will to account of, that will I prepare to your vlew, and put forward to your good speede, thinking it better by the deliuey of a grosse deuise to satisfie the demand of a friend, then by the concealing the simplicity thereof, to be censured vn courteous. In conclusion,

it

it is lawfull for you to use mee to the uttermost, and fittest to your confirmed league of amitie, that in whatsoever you should employ me; wherein I desire you conceive no more then such as I intend to become, & you shall assuredly finde me,

Your faithfull friend.

I.P.



A Letter to his frind for breach of promise.

MAfter Jackson, I have abstained hitherto to come or send unto you, partly being wearied with importunity, for that I thought, now two monthes being passed, I might in this space have found a time convenient wherein to have ended with you. Having taken this cause in hand, I would (as in good reason I thought it fit) you should determine with me upon some conclusions whereon to rest assured, I might thenceforth know whereto to trust and neither waste labour in continuing to so small purpose, nor hinder my certaine businesse by the unready stay of your affaires, as already I have done. Wee have talked many times, and set downe certaine limits, but to slender effects, as I neither know when to demand, nor you how to satisfie. So that depending upon shadowes, I have passed my time to small benefit, and you have gone forward to little purpose. I doe pray you therefore that such meaning may assure vs, as already betwene us hath bene performed. To delay me thus with nillies, as I thinke is farre from a Gentleman, for doe I suppose you not intend it considering how many waies thereby I am and shall be hindered. This therefore may be the certaine meanes to satisfie us both, that you will (as on Friday last you promised) come & see the agreement betwene us performed, where

of

AA B
B
B

Cupids Mefenger.

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of I pray you aduertise your full resolution by this beare r:
And so I bid you heartily farewell.

Arthingworth,
May 7. 1635.

Your euer assured
louing friend.

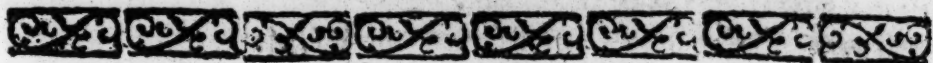
W.M.

The Answer.

Good master W. M. my breach of promise in not ha-
uing visited you with deserved requitall since my
departure may breed suspicion & doubt of vnthankfulnesse,
but I hope, and by hope presume, that of your owne good
disposition towards all your acquaintance, you will yeld
vnto an approued tryall before you condemne. For my
part if I should not owe vnto you all honest minde & fide-
litie, I should much contrary your great courtesie, & deser-
uedly incurr the shame of ingratitude. You know that ha-
uing strayed as I haue done out of the limits of a controu-
led rule, & displeased so much thereby, as my case hath be-
wraied vnto you, those whom by nature and duty I ought
to be alued vnto, It is reason that by the moze strict obser-
uance, I make amends for the residue. The day appointed
I will not faile to meet to view the writings, and to make
some conclusion to your best satisfaction. Wherin you shall
perceine the honest minde of a Gentleman. My father it
seemeth, though not yet by mee, hath otherwise vnderstood
how much I stand yoaked (in all friendly league of amity)
vnto you, and thinketh himselfe for all his sonnes vnthrifti-
nesse, somewhat therein to be tied vnto you. His meaning
is, one of these daies to intreat your pains hitherward. But
howeuer deserts bee noted, or care by nature doth binde, as-
sure your selfe, whilest life leadeth along this earthly course:
I am and will be also yours most vnfaignedly and most in-
tirely,

firely. To whom and to your good bedfellows, I most heartily and often commend me: Thindon June 28. 1635.

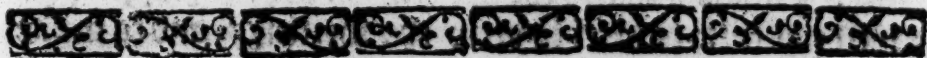
Remaining your much bounden friend
in all good affection, I.R.



To his friend a Mercer.

Dear Sir, many salutations, &c. As my occasions fall out I still presume to trouble you, grounding my boldnesse vpon the hope of your loue and good will, I request you to send me as much blacke Sattin as will make me a sute. I am your debtoꝝ already, beside in good will and loue, a small summe, which foꝝ that it hath bene long detained, you may conjecture it to bee desperate: yet on my credit it is as sure as any money in your purse: My intent being honest, but my stoꝝe not such as at this time I can satisfie: next Terme I expect the plenty of my purse will bee so profuse that God permitting, without faile foꝝ these and the old debt you shall bee fully discharged. Acknowledging my selfe beholden, I rest,

Your thankfull friend, R.G.

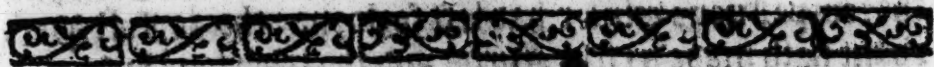


A Letter to an vnfaiethfull friend.

Sir, I haue ever been so loath to thinke ill of you that I scarce allow mine owne witnessse against you, as those strong presumptions that make me thinke you meane to keepe no promises noꝝ no friends: If you will needs haue it so, let our acquaintance now grow sickly, and dye privately lest I be blamed foꝝ trusting, and you foꝝ deceiuing so great a trust. Foꝝ since our loue is growen into so desperate

a Lethargie, I will not wake it, for I had rather it should
 passe away in a trance, and the remembrance thereof ne-
 uer hereafter to be mentioned. What your friendship was
 I cannot tell, but I am to the view it was fit for
 greater courtesies then I required: what mine owne was,
 Iudge when you haue most neede of a friend. Neither will I
 tell you what a sea of misfortune your breach of promises
 hath let in vpon mee: but He bid you now and euer fare-
 well, and with my letter conclude all rites of loue betwixt
 you and me, and rest,

No longer your friend. I.B.



A Letter for admittance into seruice.

Honourable Sir, I haue ouer bene so addicted to fol-
 low you, that in mine owne opinion I am an old re-
 tainer of yours: so I am within a degree of a household ser-
 uant, which is all the promotion that by the intercession
 of this Letter I strive to come to. But I see so many steps
 directed that way, that I perhaps may come too late, yet
 I hope your number is not full, though it be great, and I
 suppose all are not invited that goe: but some intrude. I will
 take it for extreame bounty to be admitted within your
 gates: what I doe is prest by no necessity, but to saue my
 longing, and to satisfie my desires, which a farre off haue
 euer serued you. Once I thought to haue moued this suit
 by friends, but that way I was affraid it might miscarry:
 and I was not very willing it should succeed, being loath
 to intangle my selfe in obligations, to other men, when I
 was to passe my selfe ouer vnto you, so I thought best to
 write, for to speake had bene too bold. So in hope at the
 least of a pardon, I rest as farre as in me lies,

Your humble seruant,

B.I.

Pa

To

To his Loue vpon a long and fruitlesse affection.

It is the propertie of no faine hearted souldier
for receiuing a repulse to retire from assault and
to giue ouer his enterprize: when euery one ought to be
constant perseuerance, that he may worke the accomplish-
ment of his desires. The long vnsuccessfullnesse of my suit
hath not made me weary of your seruice, though since I
first fell in loue with you (O might the examples incite
you no longer to retard your affection) the Sunne hath gone
about the world, and giuen a new life to all things which
the tempestuous winter had left forlozne: the ioyfull Mer-
chant hath made a rich returne and the laborious hus-
bandman hath cramm'd his barnes with the plenteous croppe of
the euer fruitfull earth: Euery one hath his hope, onely
my selfe moze vnfortunate then all the rest, in the revolu-
tion of time haue not had any successe. I am you see pere-
lesse in misfortune: it rests in you with the sympathie of af-
fection to make me perelesse in felicity, of which I will ne-
uer despaire, there being no heart that is moze infinitely
affected toward you then the heart of

Your truest seruant E.L.



To his sweet heart in the Country.

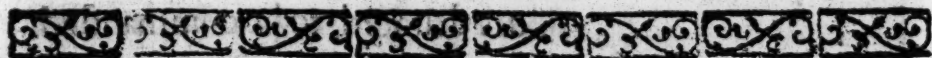
Sole mistress of my affection.

Though in London where I now am many singular
beauties are daily obuius to my sight, yet I beseech
you not to charge my unfained lines with flattery, if in the
just collaudation of your owne vnparalleld pulchritude I
prefer your unmatched forme before the rarest of their
composures: Their fauorities come as for short of yours
as

as the splendor of the twinkling Stars come short of the all-enlightning radiance of the Sun beames, and they all are as far your inferiours in the ravishing gifts of Nature, as the vilsperded pippl.

rior to the worth of the most high prized Carbuncle. To which outward endowments when I revolve in my mind (and no houre passeth without commemoration of your perfections) how sweetly you haue united all internall graces, then am I distracted with griefe for my absence, and though my barestrained mind bee inseparably with you, yet I curse the distance of place which deprives mee of all comfort, because it discernes mee from your presence, which till I enjoy, all joy is banished out of my breast, and I haue given griefe a free dominion in mee, I cannot say I rest, but I remaine,

Your entire vassall, I.S.



A Young mans Letter to his enamoured Mistris.

Fairest of a Thousand:

If you were not absolute, I would not be thus resolute: I onely to loue you whom I hold onely worthy louing; your beautie tells mine eye, and your kindenesse perswades my heart of your goodnesse, for, if you were proud, I should disdain you, and if you were not faire, I would not affect you, now, if you know the one true in your selfe, belieue the other in me, and wrong not your selfe, in not doing me right: Modesty and nicenesse are two, and delayes are the hindrances of happinesse: to bidge your patience with importunity I will not, and yet to give ouer my suit I cannot: and therefore knowing your judgement sufficient to understand your owne good, I hope to finde your disposition not inclinde to hurt him, who remaineth,

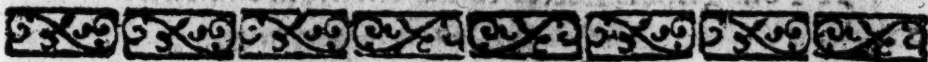
Yours as you will, and
when you will, T.D.

Her kinde answer.

My worthy friend, be- I haue loued you, was
from the first instant beheld you: how much I
doe loue you, I would I could tell you: how dearly I will
loue you, my best endeauors shall truly make knowne vnto
you: & if vnder heauen I may finde such happinesse on the
earth as to be regarded in your fauour, I will thinke it idle
that figures earthly felicitie: for your excellence, being al-
most without exception let my loue be without comparison
and if trath may haue beliefe, let my affection bee without
suspicion: and as you haue won my heart with your eyes,
make it happy with your hands, so hoping that so sweet an
aspect can haue no solowenelle in spirit, in the hope of your
kinde answer, I rest,

Yours deuoted, to be commanded.

A.B.



A Letter of request.

Kinde friend: I would entreat a kindnesse, but for feare
of a deniall not out of mine owne deserts, but rather
your disposition, which I doubt is too neare the nature of
the world, rather to grant then to gratifie: excuses are more
trialls of wit then truth, & a faithfull heart hath no stop in
loue, and therefore, that I may not haue cause to wrong
my selfe in my assured confidence of your worth, doe right
to your selfe in the good of that perfozmance, that, without
parenthesis may conclude in a full poynt of kindnesse. The
substance of my suit I haue sent you by word of mouth, be-
cause my hand writing shall not witnesse my unhappinesse
if my hope should faile the expectation of my affection, in
which without greater care of the contrary, I rest,

Yours as you know, D.S. A

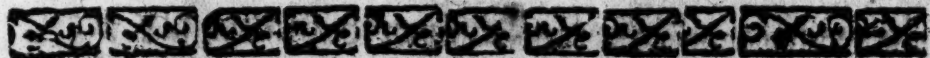
Cupids Messenger.

A Letter of discontent, upon a deniall of a request.

My small friend,

I thanke you for nothing more, then that I haue nothing to thanke you for, wherein you rather considered what I am, then your selfe should be: pardon my folly, in presuming aboue knowledge, and beleue me no more if I fall into the like error of opinion: you willed mee to make account of your uttermost power, in my good: It may bee it was in wishes, which are easily requited, but when they are boyd of effects, they are but troubles to reason: I cannot spell without Letters, nor understand words without substance, therefore loath to be tedious, when I haue unwillingly bene troublesome, I pray you let complements be without cost, so shall kindnesse continue in that condition of judgement that shall make mee alwayes ready to requite your deniall of my request as I finde cause.

Your friend to command, R.D.



To a Court Lady.

If loue could dissemble, patience could haue no passion, but truth is so tyed to affection, that as a sound limbe it cannot halt. If you aske the reason of my affection, looke into the excellency of your owne worth, and then if there bee any extreame, take it in the best part, which groweth from your selfe: for such is my judgement of your deserving, as can be answered in nothing but in admiring: for surely, hee must bee either very dim sighted that doth not preferre your beauty to all shadowes, or dull witted that vnderstandes not the honour of your worthinesse. Giue me leaue then, out of the sight of my best sense, and sense of my best

best light, to know my Service to you, and that I
may give a happy issue to your satisfaction: I am assured
Complements are but Court compliments, let please them
have such acceptance as you shall think fit, that I may be
not wanting a true affection to you, and your part to me.

Yours all, or mine owns not arail
I.C.

Her complementall Answer.

VVhat more shall I use to shew your affection, hold-
ing forth heaven my happiness, but to your love:
if trouble should please you in your affairs, I should re-
sist but in your favour: if you should be graciously accepted,
I would give you my selfe too your love: If please might
move you, I would lay before you my passion: if my death
might easily answer your desire, I would not live to be
part of your comfort: but love being a part of that nature
that only is pleased in being himselfe, I will leave all my
hopes to that happy hour, wherein he may in your stead
those blessed beams of favour, upon the faith of my heart,
that may make me in the infrangible bond of devoted ser-
vice to the last period of my life,

Yours wholly and easily to be
commanded, F.N.



F I N I S.



best light, to denote my service to your commands, that
may give a happinesse to your employment: and whilest
Complements are but Court fashions, let plain truth
have such acceptance in your heart, that suspicion may
not bring a true affection.

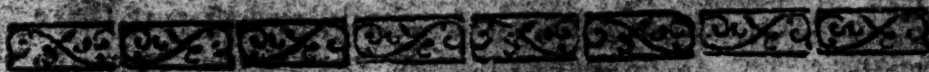
Yours all, or mine owne not at all.

I.G.

Her complementall Answer.

What words shall I use to tell your affection, hold-
ing brief heaven my happines but in your love: if
it should please you in your affaires, I would never
rest but in your favour: if gods might be graciously accepted,
I would give you my selfe for your love: If pittie might
move you, I would lay before you my passion: if my death
might onely answer your desire, I would not live to pos-
sesse of your comfort: but love being a spirit of that nature
that onely is pleased in being himselfe, I will leave all my
hopes to that happy houre, wherein he may in your eyes, cast
those blessed beames of favour, upon the faith of my heart,
that may make me in the infrangible bond of devoted ser-
vice to the last period of my life,

Yours wholly and onely to be
commanded, E.N.



F I N I S.



